

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

WHAT'S NEW?

- In April 2002, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission standardized the bag and possession limits for pheasants. Now the statewide bag limit will be **three cocks per day and six in possession** for state wildlife management areas, youth hunts and all other private and public lands.

In the Magic Valley area, the pheasant season was extended to Dec. 31, except for Minidoka and Cassia counties. See page 9 for details.

- For sage grouse, the Commission opened the Big Desert (Area 2 north and south of INEEL) and Birch Creek (Area 2). The Curlew Grasslands were closed because of a decline in population. See page 11 for details.
- A quail season has been opened in the Panhandle Region. See page 10 for details.
- The hunting season on pygmy rabbits is closed due to lack of population data. This closure applies to falconry as well. Pygmy rabbits are a species of special concern in Idaho. See page 16.
- 2002 Sandhill crane permits will be reduced 25 percent to 75 in the Teton area, 75 in the Ashton area and 263 in Caribou and Bear Lake counties. See separate sandhill crane brochure.
- Vehicle restriction in the Magic Valley area for upland game hunting: Motorized vehicle use is restricted to established roadways capable of travel by full-sized automobiles within the following boundary: Twin Falls County west of U.S. Highway 93 and south of the Rogerson-Three Creek-Jarbridge Road; and Owyhee County south of the Rogerson-Three Creek-Jarbridge Road and east of the West Fork Jarbridge River (Management Unit 47).
- Dog Training: Releasing domestic game birds for dog training requires a special permit. This permit can be obtained from your local regional IDFG office or the IDFG web site (see address on page 1).
- Youth licenses in 2003. See page 3-4.

LAWFUL METHODS OF TAKE

To take upland game birds in Idaho, all hunters may use a bow, muzzleloader shooting shot or shotgun with lead or steelshot with shells not exceeding 3.5 inches in maximum length. Shotguns are not required to be plugged when hunting upland game birds. Hunters also can use dogs to locate, flush and retrieve upland game birds.

UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKE

No person shall take upland game birds:

- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. **Pheasants shall not be taken before twelve o'clock noon on the opening day in Areas 2 and 3.**
- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, slingshot, hand-held or thrown missiles, firearms EXCEPT a shotgun using shells not exceeding three and one-half (3 ½) inches maximum length, EXCEPT forest grouse. Forest grouse shall not be taken with a trap, snare, net or crossbow.
- From boats or other craft having a motor attached UNLESS the motor is completely shut off and forward progress has ceased,

or the boat is drifting naturally, or it is propelled only by paddle, oars, or pole, or it is beached, moored or resting at anchor.

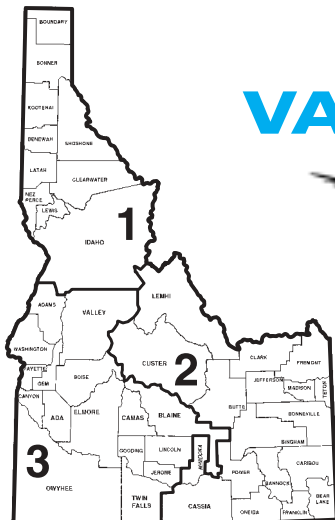
- By the use or aid of any electronic call.
- By the aid of baiting. Bait is defined as any substance placed to attract game.

AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING OF GAME BIRDS

Hunting, killing or molesting of any game bird is prohibited in the following areas:

- Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area (refuge) from Sept. 15 through the end of waterfowl hunting season in the following area: Beginning at the bridge across Sand Hollow Creek on Old Fort Boise Road about 100 yards west of the WMA headquarters, then north along the east bank of Sand Hollow Creek to its confluence with the Snake River, then north and northeast downstream along the east bank of the Snake River to the WMA boundary fence, then south and southeast along the WMA boundary fence to Old Fort Boise Road, then west on Old Fort Boise Road to the point of beginning.
- Craters of the Moon National Monument (208 527-3257). The boundary of the Craters of the Moon Monument was recently enlarged by presidential proclamation. At the time of this printing, access issues remain unresolved. It is the hunter's responsibility to check the status of open/closed area boundaries by contacting Monument staff at the above number.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County, EXCEPT that portion within an area 50 feet in elevation above the high water level of the Snake River. The upslope area is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted downslope to the river.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge in Fremont County (more closures listed on page 16).
- Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory site in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, and Jefferson Counties.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce Counties.
- That portion of Ada County within Veterans Memorial Park and the area between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- Roswell Marsh Wildlife Habitat Area in Canyon County on Sundays through Wednesdays from Sept. 15 through the end of the waterfowl hunting season in the area south of Highway 18 and west of Pebble Lane (Roswell Marsh Segment).
- On any of those portions of federal refuges, State game preserves, State Wildlife Management Areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which hunting closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action EXCEPT as otherwise expressly stated below in Section 410 under Game Preserves Open to Hunting of Game Birds.

PHEASANTS - ALL VARIETIES



AREA 1

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone Counties.

Seasons

2002 — October 12 through December 31

2003 — October 11 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit **3 cocks**
Possession Limit After First Day of Season **6 cocks**

AREA 2

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Cassia, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Minidoka, Oneida, Power, and Teton counties.

Seasons

Area 2 seasons begin at noon on opening day and are as follows:

2002 — October 19 through November 30

2003 — October 18 through November 30

Daily Bag Limit **3 cocks**
Possession Limit After First Day of Season **6 cocks**

AREA 3

Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Camas, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington Counties (including all islands in the Snake River except Patch and Porter Islands).

Seasons

Area 3 seasons begin at noon on opening day and are as follows:

2002 — October 19 through December 31

2003 — October 18 through December 31

Patch and Porter Islands: Seasons begin on the dates shown above. Closing dates will correspond with those set by the Oregon Fish and Game Commission. Check with Southwest Region Office, (208) 465-8465, or see Oregon small game regulations.

Daily Bag Limit **3 cocks**
Possession Limit After First Day of Season **6 cocks**

YOUTH PHEASANT SEASON

The Youth Pheasant Season opens on the first weekend of October. In Areas 2 and 3 the season begins at noon. It is open statewide and lasts 2 days. It is open for all licensed hunters 15 years of age or younger. All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. The daily bag limit is 3 cocks, and the possession limit after the first day of the season is 6 cocks.

**One adult may take more than one youth hunter.*

WMA PHEASANT PERMIT

Hunting for pheasants on the 9 WMAs requires a WMA pheasant permit.

Recording harvest: The Department releases pheasants at 9 Wildlife management Areas (WMAs) in Southern Idaho. Any person 17 years old or older must have a valid WMA Pheasant Permit in possession while hunting pheasants at the following WMAs:

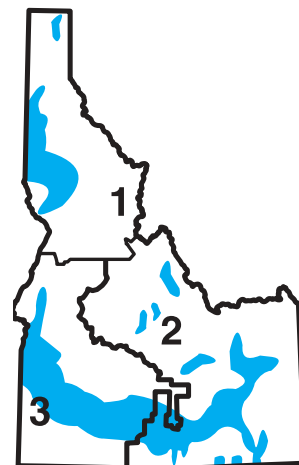
| Area | Location Code | Area | Location Code |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Fort Boise | 01 | Market Lake | 06 |
| Payette River | 02 | Mud Lake | 07 |
| Montour | 03 | Cartier Slough | 08 |
| C.J. Strike | 04 | Niagara Springs | 09 |
| Sterling | 05 | | |

Permit Validation: When a pheasant is reduced to possession, the hunter must immediately:

- Enter in the space provided, the month and day the pheasant was taken.
- Enter in the space provided, the location code (listed above) of the WMA where the pheasant was taken.
- It is not necessary to remove the notch from the permit for each pheasant taken.

Distribution and Habitat

Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. The ring-necked pheasant is widely distributed in agricultural areas. Important habitat needs are grassy areas or other dense nesting cover at least 18 inches high, permanent cover that provides protection from winter weather, and abundant water and food (especially grain). Pheasants are common in this type of habitat along the Snake River Plain from the Oregon border to central Idaho. They are present in lower densities in agricultural habitats below 5,000 feet in eastern Idaho and below 4,000 feet in northern Idaho from Benewah County south to Whitebird.



FOREST GROUSE -

Blue, Ruffed, and Spruce



ENTIRE STATE
OPEN



Seasons

2002 — September 1 through December 31

2003 — September 1 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit 4 of any kind

Possession Limit After

First Day of Season 8 of any kind



Distribution and Habitat Use:

Shaded area(s) show general distribution of these species. Idaho's three species of forest grouse are all native to the state. In northern Idaho, ruffed grouse are the most common forest grouse. Good populations are also found in the mountains of central and eastern Idaho and southeastern Idaho west to the Sublett Mountains. Riparian habitats and other moist

mountain brush areas are commonly used by these birds. Blue grouse are more common than other grouse in most southern Idaho mountains. They favor high elevation sagebrush and mountain shrub areas for nesting, springs and stream banks for rearing young and rely heavily on Douglas fir for fall and winter food and cover. The sparsely-distributed spruce grouse are found in dense conifer forests, generally from the Salmon and Payette river drainages north.

BOBWHITE & CALIFORNIA QUAIL

(No season on Gambel's and Mountain Quail)



AREA 1

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton Counties; CLOSED.

AREA 2

Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington Counties.

Seasons

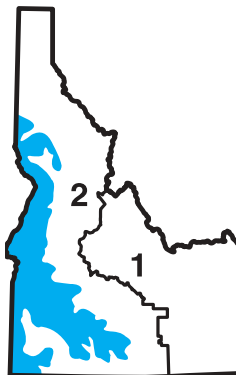
2002 — September 21 through December 31

2003 — September 20 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit 10 of any kind

Possession Limit After

First Day of Season 20 of any kind

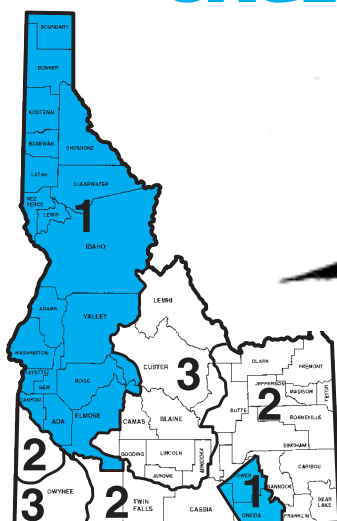


Distribution and Habitat Use:

Shaded area(s) show general distribution of these species. There are three introduced and one native species of quail in Idaho. The California (valley) quail, which occurs from Twin Falls west to the Oregon border and north to the Palouse Prairie, is the most common. Good populations live along rivers, streams and other areas of abundant water and brushy cover

below about 3,500 feet elevation. The bobwhite quail was introduced to Idaho in the 1880s and still exists in small, scattered populations in agricultural areas of the Boise Valley. The Gambel's quail was introduced near Salmon in 1917, and a small population still exists there. The season is closed on Gambel's quail. The mountain quail, a native bird, exists in small, scattered populations in dense mountain brush fields usually associated with riparian areas. It is rare in the mountains from Boise to Bennett Mountain, the Owyhee Mountains, and along the Little Salmon River, Main Salmon and lower Snake River. The season is closed on mountain quail.

SAGE GROUSE



Note: Twin Falls County and most of Cassia County are closed to the hunting of sharp-tailed grouse. Be sure of your target!

AREA 1

Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine County within the Salmon River drainage, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Canyon, Cassia County south of Interstate 86 and east of Interstate 84, Clearwater, Custer County within the Salmon River drainage upstream from and including Valley Creek, Elmore County EXCEPT that portion south and east of US Highway 20 and north of Interstate 84, Gem, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Oneida County north and east of Interstate 84, Payette, Power County south of Interstate 86, Shoshone, Valley, and Washington Counties; CLOSED.

AREA 2

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine County east of the Arco-Minidoka road, Bonneville, Butte County south of US Highways 20/26 and 22/33 and the entire Birch Creek drainage, Caribou, Cassia EXCEPT that portion south of Interstate 86 and east of Interstate 84, Clark, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi County within the Birch Creek drainage, Madison, Oneida EXCEPT that portion north and east of Interstate 84, Owyhee County north of the Juniper Mountain/Mud Flat/Poison Creek roads and Highway 78 to Grandview and the Snake River, Owyhee County east of the Bruneau River, Power County north of Interstate 86, Twin Falls and Teton Counties.

Seasons

2002 — September 21 through September 27
2003 — September 20 through September 26

Daily Bag Limit 1
Possession Limit After First Day of Season 2

AREA 3

Blaine County EXCEPT that part within the Salmon River drainage and that part east of the Arco-Minidoka Road, that part of Butte County north of US Highway 20/26 and State Highway 22/33 not within the Birch Creek drainage, and that part west of the Arco-Minidoka Road, Camas, Custer County EXCEPT that portion within the Salmon river drainage upstream from and including Valley Creek, Elmore County south and east of US Highway 20 and north of Interstate 84, Gooding, Jerome, Lemhi County EXCEPT that portion within the Birch Creek drainage, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee County south of the Juniper Mountain/Mud Flat/Poison Creek roads and Highway 78 to Grandview and the Snake River and west of the Bruneau River.

Seasons

2002 — September 21 through October 13
2003 — September 20 through October 12

Daily Bag Limit 2
Possession Limit After First Day of Season 4

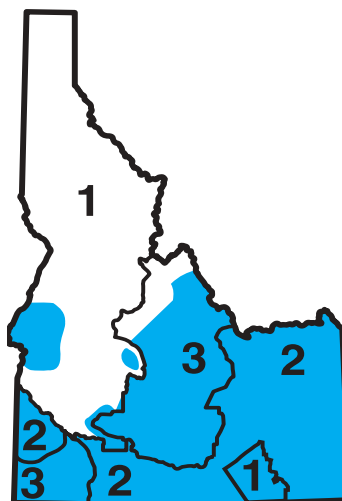
Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation:

Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 3-4.

Vehicle restriction in Twin Falls County and Owyhee County: See page 8.

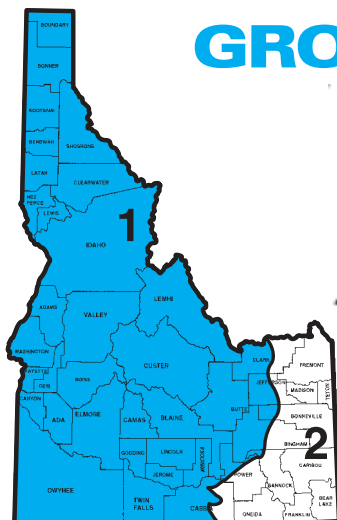
Distribution and

Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. This native grouse is widely distributed in areas with large blocks of sagebrush habitat throughout southern Idaho. Sagebrush is a crucial winter food for sage grouse and also provides them with nesting and roosting cover during the rest of the year. Wet places, including agricultural



lands, are important feeding areas for hens with chicks and are heavily used by sage grouse during the fall in dry years.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE



AREA 1

Ada, Adams, Bannock County west of Interstate 15 and north of Interstate 86, Benewah, Bingham County west of Interstate 15, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Bonneville County west of Interstate 15, Boundary, Butte, Camas, Canyon, Cassia County west of Interstate 84 north of the Malta-Sublett Road and west of the Malta-Strevell Road, Clark County west of Interstate 15, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jefferson County west of Interstate 15, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Power County north of Interstate 86, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington counties; CLOSED.

AREA 2

Bingham and Clark counties east of Interstate 15, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson County east of Interstate 15, Madison, and Teton counties, Bonneville County east of Interstate 15, Bannock County east of Interstate 15 and south of Interstate 86, Bear Lake, Caribou, Cassia County east of Interstate 84 and that portion west of Interstate 84 south of the Malta-Sublett Road and east of the Malta-Strevell Road, Franklin, Oneida, and Power County south of Interstate 86.

Seasons

2002 — October 1 through October 31
2003 — October 1 through October 31

Daily Bag Limit 2
Possession Limit After First Day of Season 4

Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See page 3-4.

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse were once distributed in grassland/mountain brush habitats throughout southern and western Idaho north to the Palouse Prairie. Habitat changes due to agricultural development and livestock grazing, and human development, among other factors, have reduced this grouse's range to areas mostly in southeastern Idaho. Agricultural lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program are currently providing important habitat for this species and have led to increased populations since 1986. Good populations still exist from Fremont County south to Utah in grasslands associated with chokecherry, sagebrush, hawthorn, serviceberry, bitterbrush and other brushy cover. The season is closed on a small remnant population north of Weiser and a transplanted population in Shoshone Basin, south of Twin Falls.

Note: Sharp-tailed grouse have recently been introduced into historical range south of Twin Falls. The area remains closed to hunting for sharptails to protect this population.

CHUKAR & GRAY PARTRIDGE

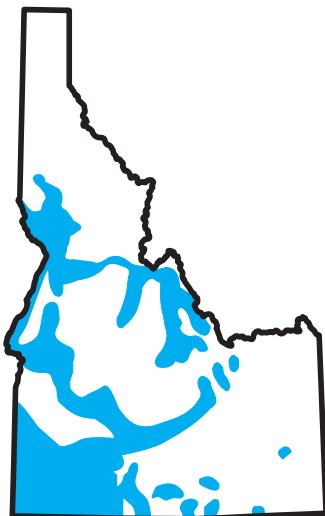


**ENTIRE STATE
OPEN**

Seasons

2002 — September 21 through January 15, 2003
2003 — September 20 through January 15, 2004

Daily Bag Limit 8 Chukar and 8 Gray Partridge
Possession Limit After First
Day of Season 16 Chukar & 16 Gray Partridge
Vehicle restriction in Twin Falls County and Owyhee County: See Page 8.



Chukar Partridge

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of chukar partridge. This species was introduced into Idaho from Asia. They are common in suitable habitat along the Salmon, Snake and Boise rivers, and along other river drainages of southern and central Idaho up to an elevation of about 5,000 feet. Chukar habitat consists of steep, rocky canyons with grassy and brushy vegetation.

CITIZENS AGAINST POACHING

1-800-632-5999



**Report Wildlife
Crimes**



Gray Partridge

Distribution and Habitat Use: Gray partridge, another introduced species, are most common in agricultural regions, but can also be found in sagebrush/grassland areas. They are hardy birds able to withstand severe winter weather if adequate food is available. Gray partridge are widely distributed, but are most common in the state's agricultural valleys.

UPLAND GAME ANIMALS — COTTONTAIL RABBITS AND SNOWSHOE HARES

UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKE

No person shall take upland game animals:

- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- With a trap, snare, net, or shotgun using shotgun shells exceeding three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length.
- From boats or other craft having a motor attached UNLESS the motor is completely shut off and forward progress has ceased, or the boat is drifting naturally, or it is propelled only by paddle, oars, or pole, or it is beached, moored, or resting at anchor.
- By the use or aid of any electronic call.

*Shaded areas show
general distribution of
these species.*



RABBITS



HARES

AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING

Hunting, killing, or molesting upland game animals is prohibited in the following areas:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument in Blaine and Butte counties.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge in Fremont County.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce Counties.
- That portion of Ada County within Veterans Memorial Park and the area between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of federal refuges, State game preserves, State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which bird hunting closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.

| SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS - STATEWIDE | | | |
|--|--|------------------|---|
| SPECIES | SEASON | DAILY BAG LIMITS | POSSESSION LIMIT (After 1st day of season) |
| COTTONTAIL RABBITS | 2002: SEP 1, 2002–FEB 28, 2003 2003: SEP 1, 2003–FEB 29, 2004 | 8 | 16 |
| PYGMY RABBITS | SEASON CLOSED | | |
| SNOWSHOE HARES | 2002: SEP 1, 2002–MARCH 31, 2003 2003: SEP 1, 2003–MARCH 31, 2004 | 8 | 16 |

AMERICAN CROWS

No person shall take American crows:

- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- With trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol or a shotgun using shells exceeding three and one-half (3 1/2) inches maximum length.
- From boats or other craft having a motor attached UNLESS the motor is completely shut off and forward progress has ceased, or the boat is drifting naturally or it is propelled only by paddle, oars, or pole, or it is beached, moored, or resting at anchor.

AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING

Areas closed to hunting of upland game birds are also closed to hunting of American crows. See page 8.



| SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS - STATEWIDE | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| SPECIES | SEASON | DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS |
| AMERICAN CROW | 2002: OCT 1, 2002–JAN 31, 2003 2003: OCT 1, 2003–JAN 31, 2004 | NO LIMITS |

FALCONRY



GENERAL INFORMATION

Birds of Prey or Raptors: All falcons, hawks, owls and eagles.

Falconry: The sport of taking quarry by means of a trained bird of prey.

Species from the following families may be used for falconry:

- Accipitridae (except the bald eagle).
- Falconidae.
- Strigidae (Great horned owl only).

Hunting season: Upland game birds and upland game animals may be taken by falconry during firearms seasons established for those species. During these seasons, falconers may take regular bag and possession limits. During extended falconry seasons, special limits apply.

Migratory game birds may be taken by falconry during firearms seasons established for those species. However, during firearms seasons and extended falconry seasons, special bag and possession limits apply.

Falconers are now required to have state permits for raptor captive breeding, falconry, falconry capture (nonresidents only), falconry in-state transfer, and falconry meet (nonresidents only). Contact your local IDFG office for more information.

There are special requirements regarding the capture, possession, transfer and use of birds of prey in Idaho. Complete rules are available from: IDFG, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON HUNTING WITH BIRDS OF PREY

Anytime a hunting bird of prey kills quarry that may not be taken under established rules, seasons, bag limits, or license requirements, the falconer must leave the dead quarry where it lies. EXCEPT that the bird of prey may feed upon the quarry before leaving the kill site.

No person may carry a firearm or be accompanied by any person carrying a firearm while hunting by falconry.

| FALCONRY SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| SPECIES | OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS | SEASON DATES | DAILY BAG LIMITS | POSSESSION LIMIT (After 1st day of season) |
| PHEASANTS (All Varieties) | All counties or parts of counties which have a firearms season are open to hunting by falconry. | Aug 15, 2002 to the opening of the firearms season and from the close of firearms season through March 15, 2003. Aug 15, 2003 to the opening of the firearms season and from the close of the firearms season through March 15, 2004 | 3 of any kind and shall not include more than 1 pheasant (male or female), 1 sage grouse, or 1 sharp-tailed grouse. | 6 of any kind and shall not include more than 2 pheasant (male or female), 2 sage grouse or 2 sharp-tailed grouse. |
| GRAY PATRIDGE CHUKAR PARTRIDGE BOBWHITE QUAIL CALIFORNIA QUAIL | Same as above | Same as above | | |
| FOREST GROUSE (BLUE, RUFFED & SPRUCE) | Same as above | Same as above | | |
| SAGE GROUSE | Same as above | Same as above | | |
| SHARP-TAILED GROUSE | Same as above | Same as above | | |
| CROWS | Open Statewide | Oct 1, 2002 - Jan 31, 2003 Oct 1, 2003 - Jan 31, 2004 | No daily bag or possession limits. | |
| MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (DUCKS, GEESE, COOTS, MERGANSERS, COMMON SNIPE, MOURNING DOVE) | Open Statewide | The season shall be within the season dates set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for these species. Hunters should check with IDFG offices for actual dates. | 3 of any kind | 6 of any kind |
| COTTONTAIL RABBITS | Open Statewide | March 1, 2002 - Aug 31, 2002 March 1, 2003 - Aug 31, 2003 | 2 of any kind | 4 of any kind |
| SNOWSHOE HARES | Open Statewide | Apr 1, 2002 - Aug 31, 2002 Apr 1, 2003 - Aug 31, 2003 | | |

